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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 632

By Langster

A RESOLUTION to recognize Gerald Nicely on the occasion of his retirement from the Metropolitan Development and Housing Agency.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this General Assembly should honor those estimable citizens who, in their years of work, have performed with the utmost integrity, dedication, and enthusiasm; and

WHEREAS, Gerald F. Nicely is one such person who throughout his professional career has demonstrated the greatest commitment and integrity in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Nicely has meritoriously served as Executive Director of the Metropolitan Development and Housing Agency for twenty-two years and will be retiring on March 29, 2002; and

WHEREAS, throughout his exemplary career in public service, he has distinguished himself as a conscientious and dedicated public servant, and as a man of honor and integrity; and

WHEREAS, Gerald F. Nicely, a lifelong Tennessean, was born in East Tennessee and raised in Oak Ridge; and

WHEREAS, a sterling scholar, Mr. Nicely received a Bachelor of Science degree in Economics from the University of Tennessee and a Master of Science in Economics from the University of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, in 1968, he joined the staff of the Metropolitan Planning Commission as a Staff Economist and was later promoted to Director of the Housing and Development Division; and

WHEREAS, Gerald F. Nicely began his admirable service with Metro's Development and Housing Agency in December of 1979, serving as the Executive Director of the Agency and Secretary-Treasurer to the seven-member Board of Commissioners; and

WHEREAS, in October of 1993, Mr. Nicely obtained a leave of absence to serve as Chief of Staff for Mayor Phil Bredesen; he returned to the Metropolitan Development and Housing Agency in December of 1994; and

WHEREAS, he has tirelessly led the Metropolitan Development and Housing Agency to unparalleled levels of excellence; under his illustrious leadership, the agency has been an important part of the construction, redevelopment, or revitalization of Nashville's public housing and city landmarks, including the downtown library, the Ryman Auditorium, the BellSouth tower, the South Nashville Enterprise Zone, the Gaylord Entertainment Center, Vine Hill housing development, the Preston Taylor complex, and the Adelphia Coliseum; and

WHEREAS, during Gerald F. Nicely's distinguished service as Executive Director, the Metropolitan Development and Housing Agency has received many awards and commendations for the quality and neatness of Nashville's public housing developments; and

WHEREAS, a highly respected member of his community, Mr. Nicely has served in several key leadership positions, including as Trustee and Past President of the Public Housing Authorities Directors Association, Founding Board Member of Nashville Housing Fund, Founding Board Member of Nashville Homestead Corporation, Charter Board Member of the Frist Center for the Visual Arts, Charter Board Member of Affordable Housing of Nashville, Inc.,

Metropolitan Action Commission, and a former Board member of Tennessee Housing Development Agency; and

WHEREAS, he has contributed his time and remarkable talents to many community organizations and is a valuable member of the Downtown Rotary Club of Nashville, Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce, National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials, Urban Land Institute, Leadership Nashville Alumni Association, and Tennessee Association of Housing and Redevelopment Authorities, which he has served as a past Board Member and past President; and

WHEREAS, Gerald F. Nicely exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that is characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Nicely enjoys the love and companionship of his wife, Donna D. Nicely, Director of the Public Library of Nashville and Davidson County; he is the proud parent of two daughters, Jennifer Lewandowski and Susan Boudreau; and

WHEREAS, Chase Cole, the Metropolitan Development and Housing Agency Board Chairman, has stated of Gerald Nicely, that “he has quietly gone about the business of making Nashville a better place to live for all its citizens, especially its most unfortunate, for all or parts of four decades. Many of his accomplishments are highly visible; many are known only to the beneficiaries.”; and

WHEREAS, although, he is retiring, his imprint on Nashville and its citizenry will remain; as Executive Director of the Metropolitan Development and Housing Agency, he leaves behind an indelible legacy of astute and innovative leadership and the foundation for future growth and prosperity; and

WHEREAS, Gerald F. Nicely has served the Metropolitan Development and Housing Agency and the communities of Nashville with distinction; his wisdom and insight will be greatly missed; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE

CONCURRING, That we hereby honor Gerald F. Nicely for his honorable service to the citizens of Nashville and to the Metropolitan Development and Housing Agency, commend him on twenty-two years of professional excellence, and applaud his commitment to his family and his community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we express our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.